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For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR THE ELECTRONIC MAIL BASED
MANAGEMENT AND MANIPULATION OF STORED FILES

1   1.   A system for management and manipulation of stored files through

2   electronic mail items comprising:

3   a receiving portal for receiving from a sender an electronic mail

4   item which contains a user identification, a file handle and a command specification;

5   a storage device containing a file corresponding to said file handle;

6   a rights verifier for determining whether or not the sender has

7   privilege to access the stored file corresponding to said file handle; and

8   a command executor which executes said command specification

9   on the file retrieved from said storage device when the sender is verified to have the

10   access rights to the file.

1   2.   The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1

2   further including a file handle recognizer for locating conforming file handle patterns

3   within the body of the electronic mail item.

1   3.   The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1

2   further including a user identification system which extracts information from the

3   electronic mail item including the from address, destination address, the subject, the

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4   reply-to, and the body of the electronic mail item, to enable verification of the sender as a

5   known user of the system.

1   4.   The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 3

2   further including a command parser which recognizes and assembles a command out of

3   the information extracted from the electronic mail item.

1   5.   The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1

2   wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to delete the file

3   from said storage device.

1   6.   The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1

2   wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to retrieve the file

3   as an email attachment.

1   7.   The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1

2   wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to forward the file

3   to a third party as an email attachment.

1   8.   The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1

2   wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to forward to a third

3   party a newly constructed file handle to the file stored on said storage device.

1   9.   The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1

2   wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to print the file on a

3   fax machine at a specified telephone number.

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1   10.   The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1

2   further including at least one of an optical character recognition device, automatic speech

3   recognition device, language translation device, and a file format translation device

4   associated with said command executor.

1   11.   The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1

2   wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to convert the file to

3   plain text and email it back to the sender.

1   12.   The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1

2   wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to convert the file to

3   an audio file and to forward the audio file to a telephone at a specified number.

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1   13.   The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1

2   wherein the command specification instructs the command executor to automatically

3   print the file and mail it to a third party.

1   14.   The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1

2   wherein the storage device further includes an automatic deletion timer associated with at

3   least one of the stored files.

1   15.   The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1

2   wherein the command specification instructs the command executor to change the date of

3   autodeletion of the file.

1   16.   The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1

2   wherein said file handle is a uniform resource locator.

1   17.   The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1

2   wherein the storage device is chosen from the group consisting of hard drives, optical

3   drives, random access memories, tape drives, RAID arrays, and storage area networks.

1   18.   A method for the electronic mail based management and manipulation of

2   stored files comprising the steps of:

3   receiving from a sender an electronic mail item which contains an

4   user identification, a file handle and a command specification;

5   determining whether or not the sender has privilege to access the

6   stored file corresponding to the file handle;

7   retrieving the file from a storage device corresponding to the file

8   handle; and

9   executing the command specification on the file retrieved from the

10   storage device when the sender is determined to have access rights to the file.

1   19.   A computer readable medium having a plurality of instructions stored

2   thereon which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps

3   of:

4   receiving from a sender an electronic mail item which contains an

5   user identification, a file handle and a command specification;

6   determining whether or not the sender has privilege to access a file

7   stored on a storage device corresponding to the file handle;

8   retrieving the stored file from the storage device; and

9   executing the command specification on the retrieved file when the

10   sender is determined to have the access rights to said file.

1   20.   The computer readable medium of claim 19 in which computer readable

2   medium is a hard drive.

1   21.   The computer readable medium of claim 19 in which the computer

2   readable medium is an optical drive.

1   22.   The computer readable medium of claim 19 in which the computer

2   readable medium is a Random Access Memory.

1   23.   The computer readable medium of claim 19 in which the computer

2   readable medium is a Read Only Memory.

1   24.   The computer readable medium of claim 19 in which the computer

2   readable medium is a tape drive.

1   25.   A processor and memory configured to perform the steps of:

2   receiving from a sender an electronic mail item which contains an

3   user identification, a file handle, and a command specification;

4   determining whether or not the sender has privilege to access a file

5   stored on a storage device corresponding to the file handle;

6   retrieving the stored file from the storage device; and

7   executing the command specification on the retrieved file when the

8   sender is determined to have the access rights to the file.

1   26.   The processor and memory of claim 25 in which the processor

2   and memory are incorporated into a personal computer.

1   27.   The processor and memory of claim 25 in which the processor and

2   memory are incorporated into a programmable logic controller.

1   28.   The processor and memory of claim 25 in which the processor and
2   memory are incorporated into a single board computer.

1   29.   The processor and memory of claim 25 in which the processor and

2   memory are incorporated into an array of network servers.